

CHARGE UP LEAD SWEEP HILL BROUGHT VICTORY TO FORCES OF ESTRADA

First Account of Battle of
Rama Shows Both Sides
Courageous.

SLAUGHTER TERRIBLE

Zelayans Made Last Stand on
Fortified Bluff—Assailed
from Three Sides.

Washington, Dec. 24.—A rumor gained currency here today that President Madriz of Nicaragua has resigned. Efforts to trace its source proved unavailing, although representatives of Estrada here had word to the same effect.

Won at Great Cost.

Bluefields, Nicaragua, Dec. 24.—An army annihilated, but a victory won at heavy cost, summarizes the recent two days' battle between Zelaya's and Estrada's revolutionary army. Of Zelaya's army of 3,000 but 500 escaped. The killed and wounded on both sides numbered 600 and 1,900 government troops surrendered. Three Hotchkiss and four Maxim's, 2,000 rifles and 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition were included in the booty.

Two Generals in Lot.

The prisoners include Generals Gonzales and Castrillo. General Vasquez, who was returning to Rama from Managua when hostilities began, did not reach the scene during the fighting. He was a few miles distant when the Zelayans were routed and it is possible 500 men escaped with him.

Gonzales shares Estrada's quarters, the victor and vanquished eating from the same mess and evidently enjoying each other's company. Six Americans participated in the battle, operating rapid fire guns, and all escaped injury with the exception of one named Bashford, who received three bullets in the leg.

Driven to Strong Position.

The first day's fighting had driven the Zelayans back to Recreo, which was protected by trenches and barbed wire entanglements, making the government position unexpectedly strong. The tugs Pioneer and Blanca, upon which were mounted Hotchkiss guns half buried in sand, steamed up a creek tributary to the Mico river to Recreo and for hours they shelled the village, the gunners maintaining great accuracy.

Make Frequent Sorties.

Zelaya's troops frequently left the trenches and, advancing through the jungles, met the insurgents in hand to hand conflicts with men under Chamorro, Diaz and Maruy. These dashes were followed in each instance by a retreat to the trenches and a forward movement by the provisionals, who cut the wires with machetes. In these brushes many were killed or wounded.

Generals Valorous, of Course.

Chamorro fought with frenzied vigor, personally using a pistol, and invariably killing his man outright. Diaz walked erect amid a hail of bullets, directing the fire of his men. Chamorro was in active command of the battle, Estrada having merely laid out the general plan.

Looked Dark for Insurgents.

As evening approached the enemy still held the trenches stubbornly resisting repeated assaults. The situation was unfavorable to the revolutionists. Chamorro and Diaz had moved on the main fortifications at Recreo and Tatumble hill, and Mena was under orders to cover the lines of retreat from Recreo. Mena had moved up Rama river but his 600 men, weak from a long, hard march, failed to effect the expected junction with the insurgent armies when the assault began.

Sends for Reinforcements.

Though the enemy fell on every side Chamorro discerned that at least he was not holding his own, and sent a messenger to Mena urging haste with reinforcements. Chamorro had been fought to a standstill and his men were well nigh exhausted. Over a field telephone Estrada was informed that the situation was desperate.

When Hour Was Darkest.

Meantime Mena had received Chamorro's message and rushed his men through swamp and jungle. When the hour was darkest for the

THE WEATHER

Unsettled weather, with snow to night and Saturday; warmer tonight; colder Saturday. The minimum temperature tonight will be about 25 degrees.

Temperature at 7 a. m., 22; maximum in 24 hours, 23; minimum, 19. Precipitation in 24 hours, trace. Wind velocity at 7 a. m., 6 miles. Relative humidity, at 7 p. m., 92, at 7 a. m., 93. J. M. SHERIER, local forecaster.

Dec. 24 in American History.

1737—Silas Deane, diplomatist of the Revolutionary era, born; died 1789.
1745—Benjamin Rush, "signer," colonial congressman and eminent medical practitioner, born; died 1813.

1814—Treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain signed at Ghent, ending the war of 1812.

1903—Rear Admiral Edwin White, U. S. N., died; born 1843.

ASTRONOMICAL EVENTS.

Sun sets 4:34, rises 7:19; moon sets 6:02 a. m.; noon today, sun directly south.

Insurgents, cheers were heard in the distance and Mena and his scratched and bleeding men emerged from the jungle onto the battlefield. Without stopping for orders and cheering wildly the reinforcements swept to the rear of the enemy and charged the hill.

Advance From All Sides.

The movement of Mena served as a signal for a general advance by the three armies of insurgents. The insurgents swept up the hill in the face of a furious fire. Mena was the first to reach the summit. At his heels were his determined soldiers.

The defenders, depending on their rifles only, were unable to repulse the attack. Suddenly abandoning the trenches, the government troops fell back before Mena's men and charged the advancing armies under Chamorro and Diaz.

All Over in 10 Minutes.

In 10 minutes it was all over but in those 10 minutes frightful execution was done. Scores were killed outright and wounded covered the summit of the hill. Hundreds of the enemy threw down their arms and begged for quarter.

Saved Needless Slaughter.

Gonzales saw he was whipped, and to save needless slaughter signaled surrender. Nineteen hundred prisoners were taken, among them many women who had fought courageously side by side with the men. The Americans established hospital quarters ashore and the wounded of both armies are being cared for by nurses and surgeons from the cruiser Des Moines.

Aid Sent by Cruiser.

Washington, Dec. 24.—To relieve the starvation of the captured soldiers of the Zelayan army at Rama and furnish much needed aid to the soldiers of both armies who were injured in the battle near Rama, the United States government today ordered the cruiser *Palliser*, now at Colon, to take on board \$5,000 worth of staple supplies secured by the funds of the American Red Cross society and proceed with all possible haste to Bluefields.

Madrid Picks Home Cabinet.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The only bit of news received from the state department this morning came from Consul Caldera at Managua. The telegram stated Madriz was organizing a cabinet made up of liberals and conservatives, mostly from Leon, his home city. This is assumed to mean Madriz is endeavoring to carry water on both shoulders, with the probability he will meet with a catastrophe.

HOW DELIGHTFUL OF THE WEATHER MAN

Agrees to Give Us Several Varieties
for Christmas—Take Your
Choice.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Christmas day weather is to be varied, according to wherever the celebrants happen to be located. In the northwest there will be snow and nipping cold, although there will be no extreme temperature. From the Mississippi river to the Rocky mountains snow will fall in the north, and in the central portion there will be a combination of snow and rain that will quickly turn to sleet. Storms are predicted for the upper lake region and the Ohio valley.

484 BALLOTS ARE FUTILE Convention to Nominate Successor to De Armond Deadlocked.

Butler, Mo., Dec. 24.—Determined efforts to break the deadlock in the Sixth district democratic convention called to nominate a successor to the late Congressman De Armond met with failure yesterday. Three sessions were held and after the 484th ballot the situation was substantially unchanged. There are four candidates.



HOLY NIGHT.

FIRE IN SANTA'S WHISKERS; EIGHT DIE IN ONE HOUSE

Charleston, Ill., Dec. 24.—Putting on the guise of Santa Claus, including a heavy false beard, to amuse the children of Charleston, Miss Clara McClary drew too near the candles of a Christmas tree, her beard caught fire and today she is in a serious condition from the burns.

Eight in Family Die.

Hillsville, Pa., Dec. 24.—The exploding of an oil lamp in the home of Santano Clerbo this morning caused the death of at least eight persons, wiping out Clerbo's entire family.

The dead are: Santano Clerbo, wife, three children and three boarders. Two other boarders were seriously burned.

The fire was caused by the break-

ing of a burning oil lamp in a hallway, which, in some manner dripped from the shelf and exploded. Burning oil was scattered over the narrow hallway and before the occupants knew their danger, they were trapped. Those who escaped plunged from the windows. The house was completely destroyed.

Phone Operator Asleep; Burned.

St. Francisville, Ill., Dec. 24.—Fire this morning destroyed nine business buildings, causing a loss of \$25,000. Irma Browne, telephone operator asleep in the exchange was perhaps fatally burned. Guy Jordan, who dashed into the burning building and carried Miss Browne out, was seriously injured.

DENY THEY DISCRIMINATE

Roads Reply to Chairman of State Board's Charges of Favoritism. Springfield, Ill., Dec. 24.—Chairman Berry of the state board of railroad and warehouse commissioners is in receipt of telegrams from the general managers of the Chicago and Alton, Illinois Central, Chicago and Eastern Illinois, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, Wabash, Vandallia and Big Four railroads, in answer to his dispatch to the general managers of the coal carrying railroads of the state sent them yesterday.

Mr. Berry's dispatch stated that charges of discrimination on their part in furnishing coal cars to mines in which their companies were interested and failing to furnish the cars to other mines had been made to the board and requested them to report to him at once on the matter. Each of the general managers denied any intent on the part of his railroad to discriminate against any mines, and each declared his company was serving all alike, and in specific instances were furnished by the board they would investigate.

FAIL TO REACH AGREEMENT

Railroads and Switchmen, However, Will Continue Negotiations.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 24.—At a conference yesterday in the office of Governor Eberhardt, attended by representatives of the railway council of the American Federation of Labor, representatives of all the twin-city lines affected by the switchmen's strike, the governor, state railway commissioners and Labor Commissioner McEwen, propositions were made by the railroads and the switchmen towards a settlement. No agreement was reached, but it was agreed to continue negotiations.

LEAVE IT TO CANNON TO PLAN VINDICATION OF BALLINGER

BY TAV.

(Special Correspondence of The Argus.) Washington, Dec. 22.—That any committee appointed by "Uncle Joe" to investigate the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy include at least one progressive republican who is publicly known to be in sympathy with the honest administration of the general land office, will be demanded by friends of Mr. Pinchot.

That the proceedings be public, will be contended for as equally, if not still more important.

No Assurance, Otherwise.

Otherwise, it is being pointed out, the public will have no assurance that an investigation of the alleged miscon-

duct of the land office will not be a repetition of the "congressional investigation" of the Lilley submarine boat scandal. The investigation of the Lilley charges that the government had been made to pay more than \$1,000,000 in excessive charges for submarine boats was made by a committee especially selected by Speaker Cannon, which makes it hardly necessary to add that the "investigation" was a farce throughout, and ended with a "whitewash."

Worthy of Notice.

The action of the republican leaders in reversing their attitude as to the appointment of a committee of investigation in the Ballinger case is not

AGAIN COOK'S PROOFS FAIL

Explorers' Club of New York
Unable to Sustain Mount
McKinley Claim.

ANOTHER WROTE HIS STORY

Said That Danish Press Agent Pen-
ned Vivid Tale of Polar
"Discovery."

New York, Dec. 24.—The Explorers' club this afternoon accepted by unanimous vote the report of the committee which investigated Cook's Mount McKinley claims, and he was expelled from membership.

New York, Dec. 24.—The committee of the Explorers' club, that has been investigating Cook's claim that he reached the summit of Mount McKinley, today reported to the board of governors of that club that, after an exhaustive investigation, it failed to find any evidence to support Cook's claim.

Another Wrote Story.

New York, Dec. 24.—Captain Loose, the competent navigator, who made affidavit a few weeks ago that he took Dr. Cook from Bronxville to the pole and back again without causing the explorer the discomfort even of putting his foot outside the door of the Gramatan inn, cannot claim priority to the discovery of Dr. Cook.

A young Danish journalist and publicity man saw him first, according to information developed yesterday, and embarked on a literary and scientific job under the flag of the

INTENSE WARM WAVE AND HEAVY RAIN MIDWINTER PHENOMENA IN EUROPE

In study in New York, said he knew Cook borealis club before even the pole finder left the comfortable capital of Denmark.

A Danish law student, whose father holds high office under the government of the king at home and who is at present spending some time that a hustling publicity man of Copenhagen, who, although a Dane, was thoroughly fluent in the use of English, had written for Dr. Cook in Copenhagen the long account of the journey to the pole which appeared in a newspaper in New York and one in Chicago during the month of September under Cook's name.

Got His Pay.

He added that he had seen adequate proof that this publicity man was ordered by Cook to write this story, and had been paid for his services by the explorer.

This report about the assistance which Cook received in the first literary labors would seem to bear out statements appearing in a Belgian newspaper in the month of October.

Henry Arctowski, who was a companion of Cook on the Belgian expedition to the antarctic, is writing in criticisms of Cook's claims to having discovered the pole, stated that the whole Cook propaganda had been the work of a clever publicity agent in Copenhagen.

Without this assistance, the critic said, Cook could not have encountered the well ordered public demonstration, nor have been made the recipient of so many private honors.

NEAR NEW HORROR

Mine Gas Explodes at Herrin,
Ill., Killing Eight and Im-
periling 400.

OPEN LAMPS THE CAUSE

Prompt Action by Management En-
ables Hundreds to Get to Sur-
face in Safety.

Herrin, Ill., Dec. 24.—Eight men were killed and the lives of 400 others were imperiled by an explosion of gas in mine "A" of the Chicago & Carterville Coal company late yesterday.

Open lamps carried by the mine's engineer and his assistants caused the disaster. There were three men and a boy in this party and all lost their lives.

Prompt action by the management of the mine resulted in the safe exit of the hundreds of men who were at work below ground. Within five minutes of the first reports of the explosion the miners in the immediate vicinity of the accident were started toward the surface and on the return trips of the cages rescuers were lowered to entries Nos. 7 and 8 west, where the catastrophe took place.

List of the Dead.

The dead are:
EUGENE BARRETT, assistant engineer.
SALVATORE GRECO, miner.
THOMAS HARBER, miner.
W. T. PIERCE, mine engineer.
PIETRO ROMEO, laborer.
GEORGE SNYDER, miner.
THOMAS WILLIAMS, assistant manager.

Other Bodies Found.

Herrin, Ill., Dec. 24.—The bodies of W. T. Pierce and his party, whose open lamps caused the gas explosion in the colliery last night, eight deaths resulting, were recovered this morning. The bodies found are those of Pierce, his two helpers, Eugene Barrett and Gordon Schaffer, and Thomas Williams, one of the assistant managers of the mine.

LORIMER TRYING TO OUST NORTHCOTT

Would Make Place as District Attor-
ney for Ex-Governor Yates
Who Is Jobless.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 24.—Senator Lorimer of Illinois is "moving heaven and earth" to obtain for his friend, Richard Yates, the appointment of district attorney at Springfield, for which office William A. Northcott was renominated last Monday by President Taft.

This was one of the three Illinois appointments sent to the senate by the president without the express approval of both senators, and which Attorney General Wickersham has offered to withdraw if Senator Lorimer insists.

If the appointments are withdrawn when congress reassembles it will be because the junior senator cannot reconcile himself to allowing Northcott to retain the job which Richard Yates covets. This information was obtained from a source of indisputable authority.

Keeps Leopold's Cabinet.

Brussels, Dec. 24.—King Albert has asked members of the cabinet to retain their portfolios.

Floods Assume Proportions of a Catastrophe in Spain.

NUMBER OF LIVES LOST

Temperature Suddenly Rises to That Usually Experienced in Summer.

Madrid, Dec. 24.—Heavy rains near the Portuguese frontier have caused floods, the destruction of which has assumed the proportions of a catastrophe. At Ciudad Rodrigo at least 11 persons were drowned and hundreds are homeless. Fifty houses collapsed and many others are submerged. In the valley of the Tormes, bridges were swept away, roadbeds washed out, cattle killed and crops ruined.

Warm Wave General.

London, Dec. 24.—A meteorological phenomenon, which, it is alleged, has not been known in 150 years, is being experienced in parts of western and southern Europe. The temperature has risen with astonishing suddenness, under the influence of a southern wind, to a summer level. The contrast has been most marked in Spain, France, and Switzerland, but has been great farther north.

Concurrently with a gale in Great Britain Wednesday the mercury in London rose in the course of a few hours from 27 to 55 degrees. Even last night the temperature was above 50 degrees. In Paris the thermometer registered 60 degrees.

Farther south 70 degrees is common. This temperature is unusual in Switzerland, where the ice and snow are melting with summer speed, causing floods which threaten to be serious. Snow has disappeared from the mountains to a height of 4,000 feet, stopping skiing, tobogganing, and other winter sports.

Guests Swelter in Hotels.

The guests at the hotels are sweltering in their winter clothing, glad to doff their coats outdoors.

In Madrid the temperature is 73. The change in the weather has been accompanied in many parts by excessive rains, causing destructive floods. A gale wrecked the Italian legation at Lisbon, destroying the minister's valuable collection of works of art.

DAUGHTER OF MARK TWAIN DIES IN BATH

Redding, Conn., Dec. 24.—Miss Jean Clemens, daughter of Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) was found drowned in a bath tub in the Clemens home here today. It is believed Miss Clemens suffered from an attack of epilepsy while in the bath and was drowned while in a convulsion. She had suffered from epilepsy a number of years. Mr. Clemens, announcing his daughter's death, stated she had been an epileptic and that, not coming to breakfast, a maid went to her room and found her drowned in the bath tub.

HARRIMAN VALUE SHORT

Recent Appraisal of Estate Was \$50,-
000,000 Too Low.

New York, Dec. 24.—Edward H. Harriman was really worth at the time of his death more than \$200,000,000, although a recent appraisal of his estate placed its value at \$149,000,000. The discrepancy between the actual and the appraised value of the Harriman estate, it was learned on trustworthy authority, is due to the fact that shortly before his death Mr. Harriman transferred to his wife and his eldest son securities valued at more than \$50,000,000.

Since Mr. Harriman's death his estate has profited by a rise in market values and it is stated that the wealth of Mrs. Harriman may be conservatively estimated at \$229,000,000, which makes her probably the richest woman in the world.

Bryan Ill, But Improving.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 24.—The condition of W. J. Bryan, who was taken ill here yesterday, was so greatly improved this morning he will leave during the afternoon for Miami.

A NEW OPERATION FACES ALFONSO

Paris, Dec. 24.—Gib Blas today prints a private communication from Madrid stating the condition of King Alfonso has created the gravest anxiety in court circles. Another operation is imperative.

KANSAS BANK GUARANTY LAW IS KNOCKED OUT

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 24.—Judge Pollock, in the United States district court here, today decided the Kansas bank guaranty law invalid.

Judge Pollock granted two injunctions in ruling out the law.